

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A conveyor oven comprising:
a heating chamber configured to receive a food item to be heated;
a heating element used to heat the food item in the heating chamber, the heating element being capable of being heated to an operating temperature in no more than ten seconds;
a conveyor which moves the food item through the heating chamber; and
a motor which is used to drive the conveyor;
wherein the conveyor repeatedly moves and stops the food item as the food item passes through the heating chamber.
2. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 wherein the conveyor comprises a conveyor belt.
3. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 wherein the conveyor moves the food item to a position away from the heating chamber once the food item has been heated.
4. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 comprising a receiving tray which receives the food item from the conveyor.
5. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 wherein the time that the conveyor is stopped is selectively adjustable by a user.
6. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 comprising an electronic control unit including a plurality of operating programs for heating a corresponding plurality of food items.

7. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 wherein at least one of: (1) the times the conveyor is moving or (2) the time the conveyor is stopped is selectively adjustable by a user.

8. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 wherein the movement of the conveyor is controlled based on input received from a user.

9. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 comprising a heating element positioned in the heating chamber, the heat output of the heating element being controlled based on input received from a user.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 6 wherein the plurality of operating programs are each capable of controlling the repeated moving and stopping of the conveyor.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 1 comprising an upper heating element positioned in the heating chamber above the conveyor and a lower heating element positioned in the heating chamber below the conveyor.

14. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 13 wherein an electronic control unit is used to control at least one of the time that the upper and lower heating elements are activated or the power level of each of the upper and lower heating elements.

15-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A conveyor oven comprising:
a heating chamber configured to receive a food item to be heated; and
a heating element positioned to heat the food item in the heating chamber, the heating element being capable of being heated to an operating temperature in no more than 10 seconds; and

a conveyor belt which moves the food item through the heating chamber, the conveyor belt being configured to stop while the food item is being heated;

wherein the conveyor belt travels along an endless path where a portion of the endless path is at least substantially S-shaped.

23. (Currently Amended) A conveyor oven comprising: The conveyor oven according to claim 22

a heating chamber configured to receive a food item to be heated; and

a conveyor belt which moves the food item through the heating chamber, the conveyor belt being configured to stop while the food item is being heated;

wherein the conveyor belt travels along an endless path where a portion of the endless path is at least substantially S-shaped;

wherein the conveyor belt is repeatedly moved and stopped while the food item is being heated.

24. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 22 wherein movement of the conveyor belt is controlled based on input received from a user.

25. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 22 comprising a heating element positioned in the heating chamber, the heat output of the heating element being controlled based on input received from a user.

26. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 22 wherein the time that the conveyor belt is stopped is adjustable by a user.

27-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A conveyor oven comprising:
a heating chamber configured to receive a food item to be heated;
a conveyor which moves the food item through the heating chamber, the conveyor being selectively adjustable between a continuous movement orientation and an indexed movement orientation; and
a receiving tray which receives the food item from the conveyor;

wherein the conveyor repeatedly starts and stops as it moves the food item through the heating chamber in the indexed movement orientation.

35. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 34 wherein the conveyor comprises a conveyor belt.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 34 wherein the speed of the conveyor in the continuous movement orientation is adjustable.

38. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 34 comprising a heating element positioned in the heating chamber, the heat output of the heating element being adjustable.

39. (Currently Amended) A conveyor oven comprising:
a heating chamber configured to receive a food item to be heated; ~~and~~
a conveyor which moves the food item through the heating chamber; and
a rapidly-heating resistive ribbon heating element positioned above the conveyor in the heating chamber, the heating element being capable of being cycled between a heating orientation where the heating element is used to heat the food item is received in the heating chamber and a standby orientation where the heating chamber is not being used to heat the food item;

wherein the conveyor repeatedly moves and stops the food item as it passes through the heating chamber.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 39 wherein the heating element provides radiant energy directly to the food item.

42. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 41 comprising a glass member that allows transmission of the radiant energy from the heating element to the food item.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Original) The conveyor oven according to claim 39 wherein the conveyor moves the food item using indexed movement.

45-53 (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 22 comprising an electronic control unit including a plurality of operating programs for heating a corresponding plurality of food items.

55. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 22 wherein the S-shaped portion is in the area where the conveyor belt is driven by a motor.

56. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 34 comprising an electronic control unit including a plurality of operating programs for heating a corresponding plurality of food items.

57. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 34 wherein the receiving tray moves between a first position where the receiving tray is at least substantially horizontal and is positioned to receive the food item from the conveyor and a second position where the receiving tray is at least substantially vertical.

58. (Previously Presented) The conveyor oven according to claim 39 wherein the heating element is capable of being heated to an operating temperature in no more than ten seconds.